

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 108942

R 122114Z JUL 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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OO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 12, 1974:

QUOTE: Q. ARE ANY MEETINGS PLANNED BETWEEN THE SECRETARY
AND THE ARAB AND ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTERS IN SAN CLEMENTE?
DO YOU VISUALIZE ANY OF THOSE MEETINGS TAKING PLACE THERE
RATHER THAN DOWN HERE?

A. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH PLANS. ALLON, THE ISRAELI
FOREIGN MINISTER, WILL BE COMING OVER, AND THE SECRETARY
PLANS TO SEE HIM. THE EXACT DATE HASN'T BEEN SET. IT WILL
BE AROUND THE END OF THE MONTH. BUT I AM UNAWARE THAT IT
WILL TAKE PLACE OUT THERE. I WOULD ASSUME IT WOULD TAKE
PLACE HERE. BUT THE EXACT DATE ON THAT HASN'T BEEN SET
YET.

Q. ANOTHER OFFICIAL -- I THINK IT WAS ANOTHER OFFICIAL--
SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN MEETINGS BETWEEN AMERICAN
OFFICIALS AND PALESTINIANS ON A LOW LEVEL. CAN YOU FLESH
THAT OUT A LITTLE BIT AND TELL US WHO MAY HAVE MET WITH
WHOM WHEN?

A. WELL, LET ME GIVE YOU THIS NOW IN THE HOPES THAT I CAN
ANSWER IT: THAT ON THE QUESTION OF CONTACTS WITH PALES-
TINIANS, THERE HAVE BEEN NO DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH
PALESTINIANS BY INSTRUCTED OFFICIALS COMMUNICATING ANY
AMERICAN POSITION.

THAT PART IS ON THE RECORD.

NOW, ON BACKGROUND, OBVIOUSLY I WANT TO ADD THAT ONE CAN'T
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RULE OUT THATSOMEWHERE IN THE ARAB WORLD OR ELSEWHERE
THAT SOME LOW-LEVEL OR MEDIUM-LEVEL AMERICAN OFFICIAL --
AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHOM OR WHETHER IT HAS EVER HAPPENED,
BUT OBVIOUSLY YOU CAN'T RULE OUT THAT HE MIGHT NOT HAVE
RUN INTO A PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL AT SOME POINT. I HAVE NO
SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF IT. BUT ON WHAT I SAID BEFORE IS
THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH PALES-
TINIANS BY INSTRUCTED AMERICAN OFFICIALS COMMUNICATING ANY

AMERICAN POSITION.

Q. COMING BACK TO THE PALESTINIAN STATEMENT THAT YOU JUST MADE ON THE RECORD. THE OFFICIAL THAT WAS SPEAKING WAS A LITTLE MORE DEFINITE THAN THAT. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONTACTS OVER MONTHS, AT LOWER LEVELS.

NOW, THE PRESUMPTION, OR THE CONCLUSION, ONE COULD DRAW IS THAT THESE CONTACTS WERE EITHER AT THE DIRECTION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR THAT THE RESULTS OF THESE CONTACTS WERE REFERRED BACK TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

A. WELL, LET ME JUST SAY TWO THINGS ON THAT. ONE, I WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN THIS SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL WAS SPEAKING. BUT, NUMBER TWO, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT HE PREFACED WHAT YOU JUST SAID BY SAYING, "THERE ARE REPORTS THAT" THERE HAVE BEEN CONTACTS.

Q. MY NOTES DON'T SHOW THAT. I HEARD SOMEONE CLAIM THAT, AND SEVERAL OF US HAVE CHECKED OUR NOTES, AND THERE IS NO SUCH PREFACE.

A. WELL, OKAY, FINE, THEN I TELL YOU I WASN'T IN, AND I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO A DISCUSSION OF IT, AND I STAND ON THIS.

Q. BUT THIS SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID, ACCORDING TO MY NOTES, "ANY NUMBER OF OUR DIPLOMATIC PEOPLE TALK TO PALESTINIANS" AND THEN, DOT-DOT-DOT, BECAUSE I DIDN'T GET EVERYTHING, BUT "NO MEANINGFUL HIGH-LEVEL, POLITICAL CONTACT" MEANING THIS PARTICULAR OFFICIAL, KISSINGER OR ATHERTON, WITH ARAFAT.

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A. WELL, YOU CAN EXTEND THOSE COMMENTS TO WHAT I HAVE SAID HERE ON THE RECORD.

Q. I'D LIKE TO DO THAT, BECAUSE IT SAYS "ANY NUMBER OF OUR DIPLOMATIC PEOPLE TALK TO PALESTINIANS." WELL, DIPLOMATS USUALLY COME FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT, DON'T THEY?

A. I WENT ON BACKGROUND ON THE POINT YOU ARE RAISING NOW. YOU CAN'T RULE OUT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN, THAT MAYBE A DIPLOMAT, AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, HAS SEEN A PALESTINIAN SOMEWHERE AROUND THE ARAB WORLD.

Q. THAT IS HARDLY WHAT -- YOU KNOW, ONE HAS TO TAKE THINGS IN CONTEXT, AND THIS CONTEXT CERTAINLY DIDN'T IMPLY THAT IN ANY WAY.

A. WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE LUNCHEON YESTERDAY, OR WHATEVER IT WAS, BECAUSE I WASN'T THERE, AND I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS IT. I WILL STAND ON WHAT I SAID.

Q. COULD I ASK A QUESTION RELATING TO THE STATEMENT THAT YOU DID SAY. YOU SAID, AS I WROTE IT, "NO DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS -- OR HOWEVER YOU PHRASED THAT -- WITH PALESTINIANS BY INSTRUCTED OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATING AN AMERICAN POSITION.

NOW, THAT RATHER NARROWS IT, AS I SEE IT, AND IN FACT, THERE COULD BE ANY NUMBER OF CONTACTS IN A NORMAL RELATIONSHIP, THE NORMAL TASK OF GATHERING INFORMATION FOR REPORTING PURPOSES. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE RULING OUT A RATHER SPECIFIC FORM OF CONTACT AND LEAVING THE WAY OPEN TO ANY NUMBER OF LESS FORMAL --.

A. WELL, YOU CAN MAKE ANY INTERPRETATION YOU WANT OF THE STATEMENT THAT I HAVE MADE HERE, BUT I AM JUST GOING TO STAND ON THAT.

Q. I FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND THAT THESE DIPLOMATS WHO MAKE CONTACTS WOULD NOT COMMUNICATE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PALESTINIANS. AND IF THEY ARE COMMUNICATED INTO THE DEPARTMENT, THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONVERSATIONS, COULD YOU TELL US AS TO WHO THESE OFFICIALS ARE, AND WHAT TYPE OF PALESTINIANS ARE THEY TALKING TO?

A. LET ME GO ON BACK GROUND ON YOUR FIRST POINT, I.E., IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY CONVERSATIONS, I WOULD ASSUME THAT

THEY WOULD BE REPORTING BACK THE RESULTS OF THE CONVERSATIONS HERE.

AS TO YOUR SECOND POINT, I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON WHO HAS SEEN WHOM; IF ANY HAVE SEEN PALESTINIANS, I AM NOT BRIEFED ON IT AT ALL. AND SO I AM JUST GOING TO STAND WHERE I WAS ON THIS.

Q. CAN YOU TAKE THE QUESTION AND FIND THIS OUT, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT CLEARLY THERE MUST HAVE BEEN REPORTS BACK?

A. LET ME TALK WITH ONE OR TWO OFFICIALS.

Q. WHAT IS THE QUESTION YOU ARE TAKING?

A. TO SEE ABOUT IF THERE WERE ANY MEDIUM OR LOWER LEVEL AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT MAY HAVE HAD ANY CONTACT.

Q. BUT THAT ISN'T THE QUESTION. I AM GLAD YOU ARE TAKING THAT QUESTION, BUT THAT QUESTION HAS ALREADY BEEN ANSWERED, AT LEAST TO MY SATISFACTION, BY THE SENIOR OFFICIAL YESTERDAY, WHEN HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN. SO I AM NOT INTERESTED IN GETTING AGAIN THE RESPONSE TO WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN OR NOT BEEN. WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT, IF YOU ARE TAKING THE QUESTION, IS, AT WHAT LEVEL HAVE THESE CONTACTS BEEN; WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING CONTACTED; AND SO ON?

Q. IF I UNDERSTAND YOUR RESPONSES, WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO SAY IS: AT THE MOMENT, THE UNITED STATES, UP TONOW, HAS HAD NO DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE WITH THE PALESTINIANS. I ASSUME THAT IS WHAT YOU MEAN BY "NO INSTRUCTED AMERICAN UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICIAL." WHAT WOULD BE THE CRITERIA FOR BEGINNING AN ACTUAL DIALOGUE WITH PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS?

A. I THINK IT IS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ON THAT ONE RIGHT NOW.

Q. COULD I ASK, HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT EVER CONFERRED WITH SENATOR ABOUREZK OF SOUTH DAKOTA ON THIS ISSUE, BECAUSE HE HAS STATED THAT HE MET WITH THE FATAH PEOPLE?

AND HE GETS \$10,000 A SPEECH FROM ARAB GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES, SO APPARENTLY -- FOR MAKING ONE SPEECH, THAT IS, AND HE APPARENTLY HAS QUITE A RAPPORT WITH THE ARABS. I WAS JUST WONDERING, HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT EVER WORKED THROUGH SENATOR ABOUREZK AS AN INTERMEDIARY, EVER WORKED THROUGH SENATOR ABOUREZK AS AN INTERMEDIARY, BY ANY CHANCE IN THIS REGARD?

A. I AM COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF THIS.

Q. I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD ASK A QUESTION THAT YOU MAY VERY WELL HAVE OUTLINED BEFORE, AND THAT IS THIS: WHAT IS THE UN ITED STATES POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE GENEVA TREATY DISCUSSIONS AS TO THE SEATING, PROPOSED SEATING, OF THE PALESTINIANS, AND WHO? I DON'T KNOW THE POSITION. I WONDER IF YOU COULD BRING ME UP TO DATE? HAVE WE TAKEN ANY POSITION AT ALL?

A. WELL, I THINK WHAT YOU MIGHT DO ON THIS, AND YOU CAN GET IT FROM THE PRESS ROOM, ON JUNE 17, THE SECRETARY HAD

A PRESS CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM AND HE ADDRESSED HIMSELF
TO THIS QUESTION. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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